

Ballinasloe College of Further Education are offering new courses this September, along with a host of existing free programmes, providing both full and part time opportunities to applicants.

Ballinasloe College of Further Education, based along Sarsfield Road, is one of the leading colleges of further education delivering QQI (Quality and Qualifications Ireland) certificates at levels 3,4,5,6.

As part of the Galway and Roscommon Education and Training Board (GRETB), their services aim to help early school leavers, mature applicants and those looking to upskill with the knowledge, skills and competencies to work in a variety of settings and to progress to potential employment.

New this year is a Physiotherapy Assistant programme accessible at Level 5. The course involves students working with a chartered physiotherapist in treating clients who have mobility issues and restoring their vigour. Part of the programme will additionally focus on infection prevention and control. It is offered part time and can be completed over 41 weeks.

For entry, applicants must have completed their Leaving Cert, The Leaving Cert Applied or any equivalent, although Mature students are also welcome to register. Graduates may find employment opportunities as a Physiotherapy or Healthcare Assistant in home care, nursing homes, day care, or hospitals.

Additionally an extension to the Early Learning and Care programme at a Level 6 is available, with stage two now offered upon completion of the first. It aims to

allow individuals to lead and coordinate in a childhood care and education environment, promoting children's well-being and development. Once completed, an Advanced Certificate in Early Learning and Care award can be accessed.

The course is offered to applicants on a part time basis, with six modules timetabled across the two semesters. Among the new modules on offer are Sociology and Social Policy in Early Learning and Care, The Developing Child and Curriculum and Pedagogy.

A total of 22 courses are available come September time. All are free of charge and will run until May 2024. Full-time programmes take place 5 days a week from 10:00 to 16:00, while part-time programmes are offered 2/3 days a week between 10:00 and 13:30, or 13:30 and 16:00

Martin Guinan, native of Shannonbridge, began his studies with the college in September 2021 and graduated with a QQI Level 5 Healthcare Major Award in June 2022. He commenced employment with TUS Athlone within student support, and now works as a healthcare assistant with Home Instead Ireland.

"This college really went the extra mile. The course was well organised, well-structured and excellently delivered by highly professional and capable tutors" explained Martin, "The Ballinasloe region is very fortunate to have this excellent College and I have no hesitation in recommending it to any prospective learner considering completing one of their many QQI Courses."

Anyone can apply and register for courses through FETCH at <https://www.fetchcourses.ie/>.



Martin Guinan graduating and receiving his QQI Level 5 Healthcare Major Award Certificate at Ballinasloe College of Further Education.



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